

Message Text

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73

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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MONTREAL FOR OCAO

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VIENNA FOR UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG

SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP - CO-CHAIRMANSHIP

1. DEPT. WILL RECALL THAT THE 11TH CONSULTATION ON SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES MEETING ON FEB 6 AND 7 DECIDED TO REFER TO THE PERM
REPS IN GENEVA THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE ANY CHANGES
IN THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CO-CHAIRMANSHIP (US AND UK) OF THE GENEVA
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GROUP. THE MATTER HAD FIRST COME TO LIGHT SOME MONTHS EARLIER WHEN

THE UK MISSION HAD SUGGESTED INFORMALLY TO SOME MISSIONS HERE THAT, IN

LIGHT OF UK ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THERE MIGHT BE SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THEY SHOULD CONTINUE AS ONE OF THE TWO CO-CHAIRMEN. THE UK POSITION SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED AND THE BRITISH LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO SEE THE PRESENT US/UK CO-CHAIRMANSHIP ARRANGEMENTS CONTINUE. HOWEVER, THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE MATTER AT THE CONSULTATION AND HAS CONTINUED HIS INTEREST IN A CHANGE IN THE ARRANGEMENTS.

2. A FEW WEEKS AGO THE UK MISSION ENDEAVORED TO DISPOSE OF THE MATTER BY ASKING THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO SOUND OUT THE OTHER AMBASSADORS TO SEE WHETHER THERE REMAINED ANY INTEREST IN HAVING THE PERM REPS MEET TO DISCUSS IT. APPARENTLY THE ANSWER WAS POSITIVE, BUT THE UK HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DATE TO SCHEDULE A MEETING AT WHICH THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES OF INTEREST (THE UK, US AND JAPANESE AMBASSADORS) AND ENOUGH OTHERS TO REPRESENT A QUORUM COULD BE PRESENT.

3. NOW THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE BY PREPARING A NEW AND MODIFIED PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD CONTINUE THE PRESENT US/UK CO-CHAIRMANSHIP BUT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THAT ANY ONE OTHER MEMBER COUNTRY MIGHT JOIN THEM ON AN AD HOC BASIS AS AN ADDITIONAL CHAIRMAN WHEN THAT COUNTRY HAD A MATTER OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IN WHICH IT DEEMED THAT ITS OWN INITIATIVE WAS NECESSARY.

4. UK REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL IS COOL AND THE UK MISSION HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE CO-CHAIRMEN TAKE NO PART IN SPONSORING IT OR IN BRINGING IT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE OTHER MEMBERS. THE BRITISH THINK THAT, IF ADOPTED, THIS CONCEPT OF A THIRD, AD HOC CO-CHAIRMAN WILL

LEAD TO CONFUSION, LACK OF CONTROL OVER GROUP ACTIVITIES AND A DETERIORATION OF STANDARDS.

5. WE ARE SOMEWHAT OF THE SAME VIEW AS THE BRITISH AS TO THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF THE JAPANESE PROPOSAL IF IMPLEMENTED FREQUENTLY. HOWEVER, WE ALSO SEE IT AS A BID ON THE PART OF THE JAPANESE TO SAVE FACE AND TO EXTRICATE THEMSELVES FROM A POSITION IN WHICH THEY HAD NO SUPPORT FROM OTHER MEMBERS. THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WOULD BE VERY FEW, IF ANY, OCCASIONS WHEN ANOTHER MEMBER WOULD WISH TO MAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USE OF THIS DEVICE AND TO ASK FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP. THEREFORE, WE PLAN GENERALLY TO NEITHER OPPOSE NOR WELCOME THE IDEA AND TO ACCEPT WHATEVER ARE THE WISHES OF THE MEMBERSHIP.

6. THE TEXT OF THE JAPANESE PROPOSAL WHICH WAS HANDED TO THE AMBASSADOR BY THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: SINCE ITS INCEPTION MORE THAN TEN YEARS AGO, THE

GENEVA GROUP HAS MADE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDUCT OF VARIOUS UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES. DURING THESE YEARS ITS ACHIEVEMENTS WERE PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT IN THE FIELD OF CONTROLLING THE EXPANSION OF FINANCIAL SCOPE OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ATTAINED BY THE GROUP ARE TO A GREAT EXTENT DUE TO THE CAPABILITY AND INITIATIVES OF THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP AND FOR THIS, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES DESERVE

THE MOST HEARTFELT APPRECIATION OF ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP.

IN RECENT YEARS, THE GROUP IS YET TO FACE WITH ANOTHER SET OF CHALLENGES IN THE GROWING AMOUNT OF CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS FAMILY AGENCIES AND IN THE FUNCTIONS THEY PERFORM (SIC). IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AN EVER INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY IS LAID UPON THE SHOULDERS OF THE GENEVA GROUP. THE TASK, CHALLENGING AS IT IS, CAN ONLY BE MET BY THE AWARENESS OF SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND THE WILLINGNESS OF THE MEMBER STATES TO TAKE INITIATIVES AND MAKE INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS. THROUGH THIS, WIDER SCOPE OF VIEWS AND VARIETY OF ACTIONS WILL BE INFUSED INTO THE GROUP AND THUS ITS ACTIVITIES REVITALIZED. AS ONE WAY OF ATTAINING THIS EFFECT, REVIEW OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP IS FELT TO BE PERTINENT. IN RAISING THIS QUESTION WE DO NOT IN ANY SENSE INTEND TO IMPLY OUR DIS-SATISFACTION ABOUT THE PRESENT CO-CHAIRMEN, WHO, AS WE MENTIONED ABOVE, HAVE IN FACT CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THE GROUP WITH THEIR RESOURCES AND CAPABILITY. OUR INTENTION IS IN IMPROVING THE STRUCTURE OF THE GROUP ITSELF; BY REFORMING THE STRUCTURE OF CHAIRMANSHIP WE CAN INTRODUCE SOME ELEMENT OF FLEXIBILITY WHICH WILL CONSEQUENTLY INDUCE THE INITIATIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GREATER NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES. IT IS FROM THIS STANDPOINT THAT WE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS IN RELATION TO THE QUESTION OF CHAIRMANSHIP FOR THE GROUP'S CONSIDERATION:

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THE PRESENT CO-CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES WILL BE MAINTAINED, BUT ANY ONE OTHER MEMBER COUNTRY MAY JOIN THEM ON AN AD HOC BASIS AS ADDITIONAL CHAIRMAN WHEN IT HAS THE MATTER OF PARTICULAR INTEREST FOR WHICH INITIATIVE OF THAT COUNTRY IS DEEMED NECESSARY. END QUOTE. DALE

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